

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously Presented) A carton for dispensing articles, comprising:
a plurality of panels defining an end of said carton;
a seam formed from at least a pair of said panels and defined in said end of said carton;
a displaceable portion detachably connected to said carton end to be at least partially detached from said carton for exposing an endmost article for removal from said carton, said displaceable portion at least partially defined by a frangible line in said carton end; and
an opening assist defined in said end of said carton such that said opening assist at least partially traverses said seam, wherein said opening assist comprises a push tab defined at least in part by a segment of said frangible line, said segment extending entirely across said seam to facilitate detachment of said displaceable portion along said segment, said push tab being hingedly connected to said displaceable portion to be movable from an initial position to a pushed position where said push tab extends into said carton, said push tab being formed at least in part from said displaceable portion such that a recess is defined in said displaceable portion upon movement of said push tab into said pushed position.

2. (Previously Presented) The carton of Claim 1 wherein said segment of said frangible line defines a distal end of said push tab.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The carton of Claim 1 wherein said segment of said frangible line is torn prior to tearing the remainder of said frangible line to open said dispensing carton for dispensing articles.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The carton of Claim 1 wherein said push tab is at least partially defined by a fold line about which said push tab is hingedly connected to said displaceable portion, and wherein said fold line and said segment of said frangible line are displaced from one another.

9. (Original) The carton of Claim 8 wherein said fold line is defined on said displaceable portion.

10. (Previously Presented) The carton of Claim 8 wherein said push tab is defined in said displaceable portion and displaced from said initial position to said pushed position when pressure is applied thereto.

11. (Previously Presented) The carton of Claim 8 wherein said push tab is defined further by a pair of tear lines each extending between said fold line and said segment of said frangible line.

12. (Original) The carton of Claim 1 wherein said frangible line is a line of severance permitting said displaceable portion to be detached from said carton.

13. (Currently Amended) A trough having been formed from an end of a dispensing carton and having been detached from said dispensing carton along a frangible line on said dispensing carton, said trough having a fold line displaced from an adjacent edge of said trough that is defined by said frangible line, and said fold line partially defining a push tab having a distal end corresponding with a portion of said adjacent edge of said trough defined by the separation of said trough from said dispensing carton along said frangible line, wherein the trough further comprises a seam defined by end edges of panels that overlap one another to form said end of said dispensing carton, said push tab being disposed traversing said seam.

14. (Previously Presented) The trough of Claim 13 wherein line segments of each said overlapping panel correspond with one another to partially define said frangible line.

15. (Previously Presented) A dispensing carton comprising:

a center top panel;

a side panel connected along a fold line to each opposing edge of said center top panel, each of said side panels having an end flap for at least partially defining a carton end of said carton, said end flaps overlapping one another to define a seam in said carton end;

a bottom panel connected along a fold line to each side panel at an edge thereof opposite said center top panel;

a displaceable portion detachably connected to said carton end to be at least partially detached from said carton for exposing an endmost article for removal from said carton end, said displaceable portion at least partially defined by a frangible line on said carton end; and

an opening assist defined in said carton end, a distal end of said opening assist at least partially bordering said frangible line and traversing said seam, said opening assist comprises a push tab being hingedly connected to said displaceable portion to be movable from an initial position to a pushed position where said push tab extends into said carton, said push tab being formed at least in part from said displaceable portion such that a recess is defined in said displaceable portion upon movement of said push tab into said pushed position.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Presently Presented) The carton of Claim 15 wherein said push tab is at least partially defined by a fold line about which said push tab is hingedly connected to said displaceable, and wherein said fold line and said distal end of said opening assist are displaced from one another.

18. (Previously Presented) The carton of Claim 17 wherein said fold line is defined on said displaceable portion.

19. (Original) The carton of Claim 17 wherein said push tab is defined further by a pair of tear lines each extending between said fold line and said distal end.

20. (Previously Presented) The carton of Claim 8 wherein said segment of said frangible line defines a distal end of said push tab, said distal end corresponding with a part of an edge of said displaceable portion defined by separation of said displaceable portion from said carton along said frangible line.

21. (Previously Presented) The carton of Claim 17 wherein said displaceable portion comprises a separable trough having been formed at least from said carton end, said fold line being displaced from an edge of said trough, said distal end of said opening assist corresponding with a part of said edge of said trough defined by separation of said trough from said carton along said frangible line.

22. (Previously Presented) The carton of Claim 21 wherein said trough comprises a part of said seam.

23. (Previously Presented) The carton of Claim 21 wherein said trough is further formed from said top and side panels.